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NEWS

POLITICS

## Codey orders probe of school construction cost overruns

E-mail Print

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON - Cost overruns in the state's \$8.6 billion school construction program will be scrutinized as the first order of business for newly appointed Inspector General Mary Jane Cooper.

Acting Governor Codey this week directed Cooper to conduct the review of the Schools Construction Corp.

The agency was set up 2½ years ago to oversee a massive construction initiative in urban and suburban school districts but has been plagued by excessive spending. The program is now projected to run out of money five years sooner than anticipated.

"The governor has instructed the new inspector general to make that her first priority in office," Codey's spokeswoman, Kelley Heck, said Tuesday.

Cooper's office did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Tuesday.

Cooper, the state's first inspector general, was sworn in last week after being chosen by the acting governor to root out fraud, waste and mismanagement in all levels of government.

The appointment was part of Codey's platform to restore integrity to state government after taking over for Gov. James E. McGreevey, whose administration was tainted by scandal.

The SCC is spending an average of 45 percent more to build schools than local boards of education, one cost analysis showed.

Architects were paid double the average rate, and project managers received up to four times the rate districts were paying for schools built in the past two years.

Lawmakers on Monday called for an inquiry into the situation.

Sen. Shirley Turner, D-Mercer, who heads the Senate Education Committee, promised to bring up legislation setting up a task force to investigate the program at



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**Douglas E. Wicks**  
**23 Fawn Lane**  
**Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920**  
**908-647-5179**

February 17, 2005

Governor John Lynch  
State House  
107 Main Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Governor Lynch: Ref: Stopping Public Corruption

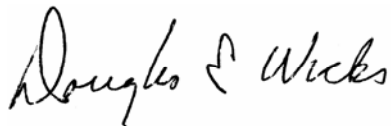
My reason for writing to you is to alert you about a scandal that has deeply infected and corrupted public bidding in New Jersey and has now spread to your state. It has to do with public contracts involving school roofing and construction. In the mid 90's this bidding corruption was so bad in New Jersey, that I approached the New Jersey Commission of Investigation and advised them of the severity and magnitude of the bid rigging situation in our state involving public school roofing contracts. The SCI took on my challenge and investigated the widespread problem that culminated in a September 2000 report *WASTE AND ABUSE PUBLIC SCHOOL ROOFING PROJECTS*. Our report found widespread corruption with 60% of the 115 school roofing projects investigated. "*The bids were being rigged to the detriment of the taxpayers and the safety of the school children.*" This report only investigated the tip of the iceberg. The actual percentage of rigged bids is much higher. The loss to New Jersey taxpayers was estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. One school district, Edison, N.J., alone was swindled out of about one million dollars. I suggest that you read the report.

For the past few years, I have been working with and advising Mr. Beloin of Bluestone Inc., who like me has uncovered widespread public sector bid rigging and corruption in your state. The corrupt patterns and practices he has uncovered match exactly the corrupt activities proven to be true by the SCI in my state. *The SCI is the same investigative body tasked with investigating organized crime in the state of NJ.* I believe that it would be in your state's public interest for you to meet with him and discuss this in greater detail. With diligence, it can be stopped in its tracks. I don't know if New Hampshire has a mechanism like our SCI but I am sure a similar investigation in your state would uncover the same corruption as was found in New Jersey.

Governor, this bid rigging scam is nationwide. It undermines public confidence in government, builds overpriced schools with substandard construction and diverts millions of scarce education taxpayer dollars into the pockets of swindlers. I trust you take some time to meet with Mr. Beloin to look at what he has uncovered. **I am very impressed.** With much less information that Mr. Beloin has documented, I was able to get the SCI to initiate an investigation that resulted in the proof that 60% of school roofing contracts in NJ were rigged. Much of this is substandard construction that does not meet the building codes. **These are schools that we are talking about.**

My understanding is that the State of NH is currently facing a \$300 million deficit. I suggest that you meet with Mr. Beloin and ask him to provide you with information that will help you reduce public construction costs to help cut millions from your state budget now and cut many millions more down the road without sacrificing services.

Very truly yours,



Douglas E. Wicks

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# BLUESTONE INC.

P.O. BOX 304

NEW BOSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03070

(603) 487-5419 \* 1-800-639-4016

Governor John Lynch  
Office of the Governor  
107 Main Street, State House - Rm 208  
Concord, NH 03301

February 25, 2005

Dear Governor Lynch,

Attached is a letter from a Mr. Douglas Wicks. He was the driving force behind the State of NJ Commission of Investigation Report on school construction fraud. He has seen everything I've put together and his letter states that he is **"very impressed"** with my work. I'm hoping you will be too.

I sent a similar letter to Governor Benson but he did nothing. Possibly because the corruption involves several large donors to the Republican party. I'm hoping you will grab this bull by the horns and save the State of NH many millions of dollars in school construction costs and eliminate the shoddy construction that the corruption breeds. In NJ the scam is estimated to be in the BILLIONS. I have several simple suggestions that, if implemented, will put and end to this "scam". I will be glad to share them with you.

The reason the scammers are getting away with this is because it is, to quote the FBI agent working on this, "complicated and involved". I call it contorted and convoluted. I'm asking to meet with you for at least one hour. Three hours would allow a detailed exposure of the "scam". Following is a quote from **San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera. "Proprietary-specification writing is a new, complex area of construction fraud, Learning about it is the cutting edge of corruption investigations."**

The latest news articles coming out of NJ show that the scheme is run by crooked Architects and Engineers. **All of my complaints to the NH Board of Architects against crooked Architects and Engineers have been forwarded to the NH Attorney Generals Office for investigation.**

I can prove that in some cases, when calculated on a life cycle costing basis, some school districts are paying 20 times, yes, that is 20 times what a private company would pay to have a similar commercial building re-roofed.

Looking forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Gerard Beloin  
GMB/mgb

P.S. Over the past 3 years, when push came to shove, I have won every legal battle. I now have one case in front of the NH Supreme Court. I have a gag order preventing me from naming names. The complaint in your hands against Attorney Steckowych is now under consideration by the NH Supreme Court. The investigator in the NH AGs office insists that "there is no crime." **He said the same thing about Judge John Fairbanks in the late 1980s.**

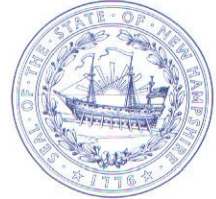
You ran on an anticorruption message. Here is your chance to back up your statements with action.

CUSTOM DESIGN, MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PERFORMANCE ORIENTED ROOFING SYSTEMS



# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



March 30, 2005

Gerard Beloin  
PO Box 304  
New Boston, NH 03070

Dear Gerard:

Thank you for sharing with me your concerns regarding public contracts for school roofing and construction. I have reviewed the materials that you provided, and I appreciate you bringing these matters to my attention. As Governor, I am committed to working with you and other New Hampshire citizens to support and improve our state.

As you know, we face serious challenges in New Hampshire. The tasks ahead of us are not easy. But I believe that if we look beyond partisanship and work together – Democrats, Independents, and Republicans – we will find real solutions to these challenges.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. It is through examining constituent concerns such as yours that we can work to improve our government. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John H. Lynch", is written over the typed name.

John H. Lynch



# BLUESTONE INC.

P.O. BOX 304

NEW BOSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03070

(603) 487-5419 \* 1-800-639-4016

Ms. Katrina Bergman  
Office of the Governor  
107 Main St., State House - Rm 208  
Concord, NH 03301

April 14, 2005

Dear Ms. Bergmann,

Thank you for returning my call today. This is of the utmost importance and needs to be addressed by Governor Lynch right away. Governor Lynch is the only one who can order the State Police Major Crimes Unit to investigate the NH Attorney Generals Office.

When you listen to these recordings, you will find them to be chilling. The crimes described in these tapes include extortion, arson, and murder of a Goffstown School Board Chairman that was working with me to stop this corruption. These crimes are alleged to have been committed by the Goffstown Police Captain and Goffstown School Board member Kerry Steckowych! Chief Investigator G. Michael Bahan refuses to investigate because this is his "close personal friend". **He has done this before!** (See newspaper articles)

This is the same Investigator that was lambasted by numerous committee members that were part of at least 2 committees set up to investigate the failed investigation of Judge John Fairbanks. Following are quotes from these committee members, all Senators, State Reps, Governors and Executive Council members. **Michael Bahan is a "liar", "puzzling", "mysterious", "unbelievable", "a failure", "disturbing", "suspicious", "implausible", "frustrating", and "politically corrupt".** The veracity of all of these upstanding NH citizens can not be denied. This man is a **"close personal friend of Attorney Steckowych"**. This is the man in charge of investigating Attorney Steckowych????

Ms. Bergmann, I'm a conservative Republican but I voted for John Lynch because I believe him to be a decent man. Governor Benson knew about all of this and did nothing. No-one wins when corruption holds the upper hand.

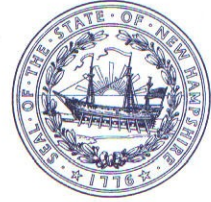
This is a winning issue for Governor Lynch. I need to meet with him right away to explain the circumstances surrounding this case. The facts backing up this case are just as chilling as the tapes and need the Governors immediate attention.

Concerned and worried,

Gerard Beloin  
GMB/mgb

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



April 15, 2005

Gerard Beloin  
PO Box 304  
New Boston, NH 03070

Dear Gerard:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with my staff. I have reviewed the information that you have provided my office. I understand that these are difficult issues for you and it is always helpful for me to hear input on our state and local agencies. Although I am not able to intervene on your behalf, I do appreciate you taking the time to update me on these important issues.

Again, thank you for your comments and input as to potential problems that may exist. It is through examining constituent concerns such as yours that we can work to improve our government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Lynch", is positioned above the printed name.

John H. Lynch





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26 April 2002

Bluestone, Inc.  
P. O. Box 304  
New Boston, NH 03070  
ATTN: Gerard Beloin

RE: Goffstown High School

I typically will make no comment about roof systems and/or roof conditions which I have personally not seen and evaluated, nor will I depend on surveys or other observations made by other individuals to formulate a personal opinion.

I will comment to the effect that *I believe attempting to remove only the recover roof system from an existing original roof membrane system is technically unsound and physically impractical,* depending on the method of attachment and the roof system components. There appears to be no good reason not to remove all existing roofing materials to the roof deck; the cost would be increased only by the disposal charge for the original material which would be offset by the savings in labor of having to deal with attempting to work around the wet, deteriorated original roof membrane system.

If the school board is truly interested in a "long-term" solution to their roofing problems, then *the existing structural roof deck should be exposed, evaluated, and repaired/replaced as required to provide a solid substrate for a new roof membrane system - whichever one is selected.*

Richard P. Baxter  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. Baxter", with a long, sweeping underline.



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March 6, 2002

Mr. Gerard Beloin  
Bluestone, Inc.  
P.O. Box 304  
New Boston, NH 03070

Dear Mr. Beloin:

Upon reviewing the Goffstown Area High School roof specifications and moisture scan sent to me last week, I have determined that ***the specifications are negligent in several ways.***

The roof deck is composed of tectum, a compressed cementitious wood fiberboard that is very sensitive to moisture. **Once it is exposed to moisture it loses its structural integrity. Since the roof has been leaking on and off for 30 years, anything less than a complete tear off of both roofs, a close inspection of the roof deck and replacement of all damaged tectum would be an error and omission on the part of the Architect.**

These specifications may lead to a localized roof collapse under heavy snow load. Since the new roof will be insulated, **it will be much more likely to accumulate a large snow load, thus increasing the possibility of localized collapse.**

Another problem encountered with weakened tectum decking is diminished fastener pullout strength. There can be a significant loss of holding power and increase the potential for a blow off of the roof under high winds.

**The specification as drafted does not meet current building codes and should certainly not be used for a school re-roofing project.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rene M. Dupuis'.

Dr. Rene M. Dupuis, Ph.D. P.E.  
Structural Research, Inc.

Structural Research, Inc.

**JOINT BOARD OF LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

LOUISE LAVERTU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

57 Regional Drive  
Concord, N.H. 03301-8518

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May 24, 2004

Mr. Gerard Beloin  
Bluestone, Inc.  
PO Box 304  
New Boston, New Hampshire 03070

Dear Mr. Beloin:

The Board of Licensure for Architects has reviewed the allegations contained in the complaint you filed against licensed architect Paul Hemmerich. The Board has assigned the complaint to the Administrative Prosecution Unit of the Attorney General's office for investigation. We will contact you when any information becomes available.

The Board of Architects also reviewed your complaint against Gale Associates. The Board referred your complaint to the Board of Professional Engineers for their review because Gale Associates is a certified engineering business organization. The Engineer's Board will consider the merits of your complaint at their June 18th meeting.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Lavertu".

Louise Lavertu  
Executive Director

**JOINT BOARD OF LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

LOUISE LAVERTU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

57 Regional Drive  
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June 21, 2004

Mr. Gerard Beloin  
Bluestone, Inc.  
PO Box 304  
New Boston, New Hampshire 03070

Dear Mr. Beloin:

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers has reviewed the allegations contained in the complaints you filed against licensed Professional Engineer, Jeffrey Trexler, Gale Associates and Miller Engineering and Testing. The Board has assigned the complaints to the Administrative Prosecution Unit of the Attorney General's office for investigation. We will contact you when any information becomes available. .

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Lavertu".

Louise Lavertu  
Executive Director

LETTER TO SPECIAL AGENT DON HALE

Special Agent Don Hale  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
15 Constitution Drive  
Bedford, NH 03110  
603-472-2224  
[bedford.bs@fbi.gov](mailto:bedford.bs@fbi.gov)

July 8, 2004

Dear Special Agent Don Hale,

My name is Tim Hogan. I was a member of the Goffstown Area High School Building Committee. I was present at the January 30<sup>th</sup> 2002 GAHSBC meeting where Mr. Beloin publicly accused the Architect Paul Hemrick and Superintendent Daryl Lockwood of negligence for failing to address the tectum decking problem. I believe I was the only one to vote to allow Mr. Beloin to speak at the meeting. I remember him being dismissed by Dr. Lockwood, Architect Paul Hemrick and 1 other member of the GAHSBC.

Since that time, I've met with Mr. Beloin and I believe he has raised legitimate concerns about the structural integrity of the GAHS roof structure. The information about tectum decking presented to me by Mr. Beloin should have been fully vetted during the GAHSBC meetings. I don't recall tectum decking ever being discussed.

I believe that there is a good possibility that this information was deliberately withheld from the voting members of the GAHSBC. Had I been fully informed about the problems with tectum decking, I'm sure I would have voted differently and or asked more questions. If Mr. Beloins claims are true, (he has shown me much information that seem tough to dispute) then the GAHS re-roofing project violated numerous building and safety codes and the structure is unsafe.

According to Mr. Beloin, he has pointed this out to the Goffstown School Board on more than one occasion and they have refused to act. This could not have happened with the Architect acting alone. The General Contractor and Roofing Contractor know or should have known of the building code violations.

My information has it that this is racketeering and is a Federal crime that falls under the jurisdiction of the FBI.

I'm willing to come in for an interview to help move this investigation forward.

Sincerely,



Tim Hogan